

Exhibit A

6. A hose coupling having an area of peak crimp force, said hose coupling comprising:

an inner sleeve having a first end, a second end opposite said first end, and a pair of annular upset beads therebetween, said inner sleeve further having an inner diameter and an outer diameter thereon, said inner diameter having at least one groove therein, said outer diameter having at least one projection thereon;

a hose having an inner diameter positioned over said outer diameter of said inner sleeve, wherein said at least one projection of said inner sleeve interlocks with said hose to resist axial movement of said hose relative to said hose coupling;

an outer sleeve having a terminating end sandwiched between said pair of annular upset beads of said inner sleeve, said outer sleeve further having an inner diameter circumscribing said hose, said inner diameter of said outer sleeve further having at least one depression formed by a crimping operation, said at least one depression being concentric with said at least one groove of said inner sleeve, wherein said at least one depression interlocks with said hose to further resist axial movement of said hose relative to said hose coupling; and

a reinforcing ring positioned within said at least one groove in said inner diameter of said inner sleeve and concentric with said area of peak crimp force, whereby said reinforcing ring resists deformation of said inner sleeve during said crimping operation, said reinforcing ring having an inner diameter at least as great as said inner diameter of said inner sleeve, whereby said reinforcing ring permits full cross sectional fluid flow through said hose coupling.